IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 17 as follows:

1. (Amended) A sabot having a rearward end and a central longitudinal axis which is surrounded by a channel surface which is engageable with a projectile locatable within the channel, the sabot being at least partially made of a material having an anisotropic compressive strength distribution such that in individual radial planes which radiate outwards from the central longitudinal axis the sabot's maximum value of compressive strength is oriented in a first principal material direction and the sabot's minimum value of compressive strength is oriented in a second principal material direction, the material being oriented such that within individual radial planes the first principal material direction radiates at least partially outwardly from the central longitudinal axis towards the rearward end of the sabot.

A1

7. (Amended) A sabot [according to claim 5] having a rearward end and a central longitudinal axis which is surrounded by a channel surface which is engageable with a projectile locatable within the channel, the sabot being made of a material having an anisotropic compressive strength distribution such that in individual radial planes which radiate outwards from the central longitudinal axis

A2 cont

the sabot's maximum value of compressive strength is oriented in a first principal material direction and the sabot's minimum value of compressive strength is oriented in a second principal material direction, the material being oriented such that within individual radial planes the first principal material direction radiates from the central longitudinal axis towards the rearward end of the sabot wherein the material comprises a matrix containing a first array of substantially unidirectional fibres which radiate outwards at an acute angle X to the central longitudinal axis towards the rearward end of the sabot wherein the material further comprises a second array of substantially unidirectional fibres which are substantially parallel to the sabot's central longitudinal axis.

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17. (Amended) A sabot having a rearward end and a central longitudinal axis surrounded by a channel surface which is engageable with a projectile locatable therein, the sabot at least partially comprising a plurality of longitudinal elements extending outwards on radial planes from the central longitudinal axis, the material of each element having about its plane an anisotropic compressive strength distribution and different principal material directions such that each element has its maximum value of compressive strength in a first principal material direction and its minimum value of compressive strength in a second principal material direction, material in each element being oriented